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TheHighlander

Thursday **August 6 2026** | Issue 751

INSIDE: A FATHER'S HEARTBREAKING STORY PAGE 10 **FREE**

Peek-a-boo

Orillia's Jen Manuell always enjoys coming to Haliburton to sell her blankets and other textiles, setting up at the Schoolhouse Pop-Up Market in Donald over the weekend (Aug. 1-2). See page 12 for more. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Dysart considers new public trailhead

By Mike Baker

Haliburton resident Carolyn Langdon is calling on Dysart et al council to establish a new public trail system that would one day connect the future County Road 21 development to the rest of the community.

Representing the Friends of Grass Lake advocacy group, Langdon pitched elected officials at last week's (July 28) council meeting.

"We are requesting a formal, phased, active transportation corridor. We want to connect the new municipal property to Glebe Park," Langdon said. "This would create a safe, walkable corridor from one part of the village to another."

The idea, she said, would be to map out a trail from the approximate 10-acres the municipality has set aside for a public park and have it run to the property's northern border. It would then cross several other parcels owned by the township, and one private lot, before connecting to Glebe Park.

Because of the extensive trails system already in place at Glebe Park, Langdon said people would be able to travel into the downtown without walking along a busy highway. It would also provide access to Halbiem Crescent and Bayshore Road – not an important feature today, but could be significant, Langdon said, if the township builds a new recreation facility on the CR21 property.

There have been preliminary talks about

Continued **'Proposal'** on page 2

Highlander news

Proposal would connect CR21 site to downtown

Continued from page 1

an arena, curling club and swimming pool being built, with council setting aside space in early development proposals that could, potentially, accommodate all three.

Langdon did not present any costs or timelines, later telling *The Highlander* that while the project was thought up by the Friends of Grass Lake, with help from former MP Barry Devolin, she hoped the township would take it on. She didn't think it would be an expensive project.

"We can look to Europe and the UK for a successful model. These regions have thousands of miles of historic, low-impact paths that cut through various properties. They don't require heavy infrastructure – often, it's just a simple, unpaved path," Langdon said.

She pitched the trail as an economical alternative to the township extending sidewalks out to that stretch of town. Using something like crushed granite would require minimal upkeep. Langdon has outlined a potential route for the trail.

She made two official requests – that council formally protect a right-of-way corridor in all development plans moving forward and that staff work with consultant, Biglieri Group, which is helping the township with its development plan, to include a trail in future proposals.

Council spoke favourably about the idea, with mayor Walt McKechnie, deputy mayor Pat Casey and coun. Barry Boice expressing support.

"It's a great idea in principle, but if you look at some of the areas on the map there are some things that come into play – there's some wetlands out there, so we have to be careful," Casey said. "This will also cost money at the end of the day – we'll have to bring surveyors in… we have to look at this more before agreeing.

McKechnie said he thought "it'll be a great little hiking trail."

'Good for community'

Langdon said investing in the system would greatly enhance one of Haliburton's best features – its walking trails.

"There is a proven trail culture in Haliburton – when you consider the popularity of the Hike Haliburton festival and the high use of Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) trails, this would be a great addition," she said, noting the trails could also be used for educational purposes.

"There is a wetland, so maybe a boardwalk becomes part of the conversation. There are groups in our area who have experience doing that kind of thing," Langdon said, noting the recently-reopened boardwalk in Minden is a popular destination for school nature trips and environmental programming through groups like HHLT and Environment Haliburton!

William Vitalis has been cottaging in the Highlands for his entire life. Spending summers growing up on nearby Peninsula Road, he feels a trail would be well-used by residents and visitors alike. His son, Ishvara, feels it would be a great addition for youth.

Friends of Grass Lake member Carolyn Langdon and seasonal residents Ishvara and William Vitalis say a public trail would be a great way to connect the township's County Road 21 property to the rest of the community. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

"I like biking over in Glebe Park, so for me this would be great. I'd have a closer connection to the park, but also just having a longer route, being able to see more of our green spaces would be good," Ishvara said.

William added, "and if the township is seriously talking about having a rec facility on this new property, leaving space for a trail would be a great way to plan and prepare for that by making sure people have various ways to access it."

Township planner Kris Orsan said the idea would be discussed with Biglieri Group and brought back to council in the fall.

OPP NEWS

Impaired driving charge

Two people have been charged with impaired driving offences over the past week, with Haliburton Highlands OPP warning the public about the potentially fatal risks involved with operating a car or motorized boat while under the influence.

Haliburton Highlands OPP charged 50-year-old Cristopher Clements, of Cambridge, following a routine traffic stop last Tuesday (July 28). Police officials said they stopped Clements around 8:20 p.m. after catching him travelling eastbound on Loop Road. Clements was not wearing a helmet.

Police said they launched an impaired driving investigation immediately after stopping Clements. He was charged with operation of a vehicle while impaired; failure or refusal to comply with a demand; two counts of operation while prohibited under the Criminal Code; offenses for driving without plates, permit or insurance; and failing to wear a proper helmet.

This past Tuesday (Aug. 4), officers were on general patrol on Hwy. 35 south of Minden when they noticed a vehicle driving erratically. Following a traffic stop, 53-year-old Shari-Lyn Cripps of Keswick was charged with operation while impaired (blood alcohol concentration 80-plus); driving with improper headlights; having care or control of a motor vehicle with an open container of liquor; and failure to surrender insurance.

Both drivers had their vehicles impounded for seven days and licences suspended for 90 days. They are scheduled to appear in court in Minden at later, unscheduled dates.

Busy weekend

Members of the OPP's snowmobile, ATV and vessel enforcement unit (SAVE) were active throughout the Civic holiday weekend (Aug 1-3), with active patrols throughout cottage country – including in Haliburton County.

Police say 42 charges were laid and 56 warnings issues for infractions involving marine and off-road vehicles. Alcohol-related and lifejacket violations accounted for more than half of all charges laid during the effort, including 14 Liquor Licence and Control Act offences.

"Alcohol and boating do not mix. The consequences of operating a vessel while impaired are the same as those for impaired driving on Ontario highways and can result in criminal charges, licence suspensions and other significant penalties," OPP spokesperson Ashley Taylor said. *(Mike Baker)*

No AI slop

OPP engaging public on strategic plan

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment commander, Deb McClure, highlighted efforts to tackle online fraud, improve traffic safety, discussed new technology, and mental health partnerships, when she presented the board's annual report July 23.

Tabled at the meeting in McClure's absence, the document included crime, traffic enforcement, and community well-being data, and highlighted initiatives and successes from the past year.

McClure noted 2025 was the last year of the 2023-2025 detachment action plan and her report provided a final update and progress results from the plan. She said she was proud of the dedication, professionalism and work undertaken by members throughout 2025.

McClure said online fraud incidents continued to challenge residents across Haliburton County. "In response, we expanded our outreach efforts with targeted education sessions and in-person presentations, helping individuals recognize emerging fraud tactics and protecting themselves. As criminal methods evolve, our collaboration with community partners remains vital in identifying trends, supporting victims, and preventing future offences."

The detachment commander added traffic safety remained a key priority. "By focusing enforcement and education on the 'big four' offences: speeding, impaired driving, distracted driving and lack of seatbelt use, we continued to reduce collision rates and enhance road safety across the region."

McClure added that throughout 2025, "we advanced and expanded our use of new technologies introduced in recent years. The integration of body-worn cameras, in-car cameras, and automated licence plate recognition has strengthened evidence collection, increased transparency, and enhanced officer and public safety."

She said they also successfully integrated new radio systems, improving communication reliability in Haliburton County's challenging geography and supported more effective and co-ordinated frontline response.

"These technological advances further support operational effectiveness and member safety.

Detachment commander, Deb McClure, is back after being seconded to Bracebridge. *File.*

"We also continued our partnerships to support individuals experiencing mental health crises. Working with Haliburton Highlands Health Services and other community agencies, we advanced co-response approaches that reduced barriers to care and ensured people received timely, appropriate support."

As they close out the 2023–25 action plan, McClure said she was encouraged by the progress made across all priority areas. "This work has strengthened our community relationships, enhanced service delivery, and positioned us for continued success."

Later this year, they will release their 2026-29 action plan; the first developed under the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA).

"We are working closely with our detachment board and engaging with community members to ensure the needs of our communities are reflected in the commitments we make for the next four years," McClure said.

She added the plan will coincide with the creation of the 2026-29 OPP strategic plan creating organizational alignment.

Police in the schools

Board chair, Andrew Fletcher, said the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, and the OPP police commissioner, want more OPP engagement in schools.

He said it had been a contentious issue over the last number of years; with police officers initially in schools, then a push to pull them out. In 2025, Bill 33 was passed, mandating police returning to schools.

Fletcher said the chiefs want local detachments to develop police and youth engagement strategies, focusing on relationship-building and prevention, rather than enforcement.

Fletcher called it, "a good news story when we get back into the schools and build those relationships with the youth."

Board member Andrew Hodgson added, "I think we should fully endorse that. I think the police should be in our schools. I think they should be in the high school. I'm in favour of enforcement."

He recalled when police visited Hal High when he attended, and said students knew it. "We should encourage all the schools and police to be a part of it."

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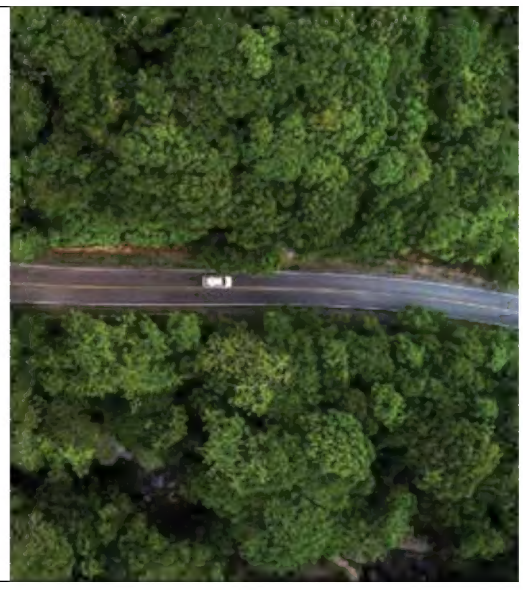


Highlander news

Hi No trolls

Stores embrace madness

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A shift in tradition and a good dousing of summer rain weren't enough to stop shoppers from taking over the main street for Haliburton's annual Midnight Madness this past Saturday (Aug. 1).

While the event was a success for many downtown shops, the move from its usual Friday night timeslot became a bit of a debate over local tradition and tourist foot traffic.

In the past, Midnight Madness was held on Friday nights, but this year it was shifted to Saturday (Aug. 1) evening. The move, backed by heavy advertising and promotion on social media, had some business owners feeling anxious as opening hour approached, especially when rain rolled in.

"We were worried at first with the weather being the way it was," Delancey Sports co-owner Erika Mozes told *The Highlander* on Monday.

Mozes said she texted her partner and business co-owner, Josh Karam, just before 7 p.m., thinking aloud that maybe moving the big sale to the following day might be a better option.

"And then 15 minutes later, the store was just hopping. There were so many people coming in, it was really great," she said.

The rain pushed people directly into downtown stores, with businesses reporting shoppers right through to the late hours of the event.

"It worked out to be one of the best Midnight Madnesses that the store has ever done since we've been located in Haliburton," Hywel Lee, store manager at Algonquin Outfitters, said while adding he welcomed the move to Saturday. "It gave the cottagers time to get up on Friday and come in to shop on the Saturday as planned."

Over at Mixtape Vintage, foot traffic stayed steady past the typical wind-down time.

"During the weather, it was a really good turnout; I had people right until 11," Heidi Hudspith said. The store owner noted that the later hours brought a spike of "younger shoppers from nine to 11 p.m."

Glecoff's Family Store was also steady with customers right up to Saturday's curtain call. "I think everyone that was in town was in the store and a lot of local people, which was great," Emily Glecoff said. "It started at about 8 p.m., and we were busy until about 10:30 p.m., so it was really good."

While sales were strong, matching or exceeding previous years, some businesses said there was a bit of a shift in customer demographics with the move to Saturday night.

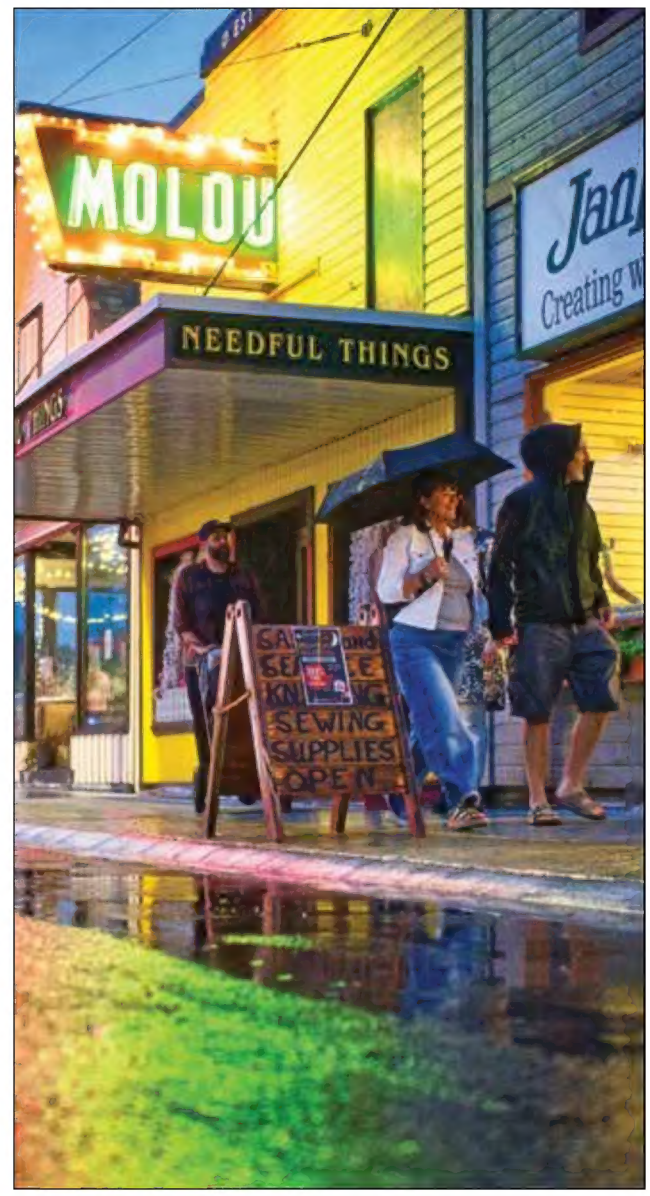
"We had a lot of people ask us why it was moved. I think some people were a little bit upset about it," Mozes said, but noted that overall traffic into the store was great.

"I felt like the people that were most upset about it were the people that have been coming for 50 years and always come on the Friday," Hudspith explained.

When asked about whether the new home for Midnight Madness should be Saturday night, Algonquin Outfitters gave a resounding "100 per cent" vote while Mixtape suggested ramping up live music past 10 p.m. to keep the street party vibe alive, while acknowledging that the weather was a factor on Saturday.

Delancey Sports said they would be happy to defer to the public.

"In terms of traffic and people coming out, we saw the same levels of support that we've seen in past years," Mozes said. "I would rather just let the people of Haliburton decide, because for us, we'll be open, we'll be here, and we'll do our Midnight Madness stuff for them."



Shoppers brave the rain to take in Haliburton's annual Midnight Madness on Aug. 1. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

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Mayor defends Minden raises

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter defended large wage increases for three staff members in 2025, including the CAO, director of public works, and supervisor of waste management.

According to the public sector salary disclosure 2025, chief administrative officer, Cynthia Fletcher, made $187,046 – compared to $180,865 in 2024 – up $6,000. Her predecessor, Trisha McKibbon, earned $137,774, in 2022.

According to the 2025 list, director of public works, Mike Timmins, made $147,555, versus $126,961 in 2024 – a $20,594 jump.

Supervisor of waste management, Chelsea Cosh, did not appear on the 2024 Sunshine List, but made it last year, being paid $106,705.

Carter said the sunshine list does not provide all of the facts behind council's decision surrounding salaries and taxable benefits. For example, he said all three staffers are now working more hours.

"When we took over this term, our salaries were a real mishmash of things that had grown over the years. We had people working 35-hour weeks, people working 37.5-hour weeks and people working 40-hour weeks.

"We had situations where we had supervisors working 35 hours and their staff working 40 … so what we have tried to do is standardize and move almost everybody to 40-hour weeks."

The mayor added while it appears their salaries have risen, the total cost to the township hasn't necessarily gone up. For example, he said if they work a 40-hour week now, they are not eligible for as much overtime pay.

Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter feels staff salaries in his township are reasonable. *File.*

Carter added, "I will put our salaries up against any other municipality of similar size and with jobs of similar stature. Our salaries are not out of whack. We looked at them carefully and everybody on council approved these salaries."

By way of comparison, Dysart et al CAO Tamara Wilbee pulled in more than $203,000 last year, Algonquin Highlands CAO Angie Bird made just under $168,000, and Highlands East staff lead Brittany McCaw more than $135,500.

Dysart's director of public works, Rob Camelon, earned more than $152,000; Adam Thorn of Algonquin Highlands nearly $140,000; and Perry Kelly of Highlands East more than $135,786, with Highlands East environmental staffer Patrick Thompson making more than $110,000.

Carter reiterated in an interview last week, the increases "came about because of change of hours. You work more; you get paid more. The justification is they are being paid commensurate with what the job pays across the market."

MINDEN HILLS NEWS

Tackling unlicensed STRs

Council has passed an administrative monetary penalty (AMPs) bylaw to give it more teeth when dealing with unlicensed short-term rentals (STRs).

Currently, licensed STRs operate on a demerit point system. They are issued when an owner is in violation of the bylaw. If demerit points add up, STR owners may not be able to renew their licence.

However, the issue is if owners don't have a licence, the township can't give demerits, and there are no set fines for non-compliance.

Staff said there's now no recourse for not obtaining a licence and the township has little control over safety and occupancy at the property.

"The current situation poses several concerns around safety, fire safety, occupancy, noise, and issues with neighbours. Currently, the township has roughly 62 non-compliant short-term rentals," staff said.

They said using an AMPs bylaw will assist the township in addressing non-compliance. They allow the township to issue financial penalties for bylaw violations through an administrative process, rather than through the provincial court system.

They are commonly applied to minor infractions, such as parking, noise, animal control, and licensing violations. Under the system, when a penalty notice is issued, the recipient may either pay the fine or request a review through a municipal screening and hearing process.

Initial reviews are completed by a screening officer, who is a municipal employee. Final decisions, if appealed, are made by a designated hearing officer, who is a separate third-party appointee.

The approach improves efficiency by reducing reliance on the court system, enabling faster resolution of disputes, and allowing municipalities to manage enforcement matters locally while maintaining fairness and due process.

The AMPs framework removes minor infractions from the provincial court system and allows municipalities to administer and adjudicate penalties internally. It also enables municipalities to retain 100 per cent of the revenue generated from penalties.

"Implementing AMPs will provide the township with an effective tool to issue and collect fines for non-compliant STR operators in a timely and efficient manner. AMPs may be expanded to other areas in the future," staff said.

Sidewalk improvements and roads study

Council directed staff to award the request for proposals (RFP) for sidewalk improvements to Weir Gradall Limited for $331,425 plus HST.

Director of public works, Mike Timmins, said council had budgeted approximately $350,000 for the project in the village. He said they issued the RFP in July and work is expected to take place in the fall.

There were three bidders and Weir Gradall was the cheapest.

At the meeting, council also awarded the RFP for a roads' needs, speed limit review, and traffic speed study.

The job is going to GEI Consultants Canada for $99,730 plus HST. It was the cheapest of two bids. Council had allocated $118,000 in the 2026 budget.

Timmins said, "these documents are critical in determining road maintenance, roads capital projects and financial forecasting. These studies and reports will serve as supporting documents for the township's asset management plan. It is best practice to complete a roads needs study every five years."

(Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Highlander news

No misinformation

COUNTY OF HALIBURTON NEWS

Lease renewal for doctor's house

The County has renewed its lease for a Haliburton property it uses for physician recruitment.

Physician recruitment co-ordinator, Wendy Welch, made the ask at a July 22 meeting.

She said they currently rent 1007 Deer Point Lane, Haliburton, but that lease expires Aug. 18.

There is a $150-a-month hike, to $2,350.

Welch said, "staff have a good and co-operative relationship with the property owners. With the exception of slow internet speed in that area, staff receive positive feedback from physicians who stay at this property."

She added there have been 102-night stays to date in 2026, and staff is projecting 100 per cent usage for the majority of 2026 associated with a local family physician living there until they receive permanent residency and can purchase their own home.

Hoping to go green

Council gave staff the green light to apply under the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) sustainable municipal buildings grant.

Deputy treasurer, Tanya Rosenberg, said they want to evaluate retrofit options for the administrative office at 11 Newcastle St; the roads patrol yard at 1516 Ingoldsby Rd. Minden; the Haliburton Emergency Medical Services base at 6 South St. Haliburton; and the Tory Hill paramedic station.

"The proposed feasibility study represents an important opportunity to develop a long-term strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from County-owned buildings while improving operational efficiency and protecting municipal infrastructure investments," Rosenberg said.

"Receiving FCM GMF (green municipal fund) support will reduce the financial impact on the County while providing the technical analysis necessary to guide future retrofit projects and support future funding application efforts."

Rosenberg estimated that with a successful grant, the total project cost would be $87,741.50, with the County chipping in $43,870.75, from patrol yard and ambulance reserves.

The deputy treasurer noted the County has identified reducing greenhouse gas emissions from municipal facilities as a priority through its corporate climate action plan and 2024 asset management plan.

County marks overdose awareness day

Ashley Smoke, the Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Northumberland drug strategy co-ordinator, urged council to proclaim Aug. 31 international overdose awareness day.

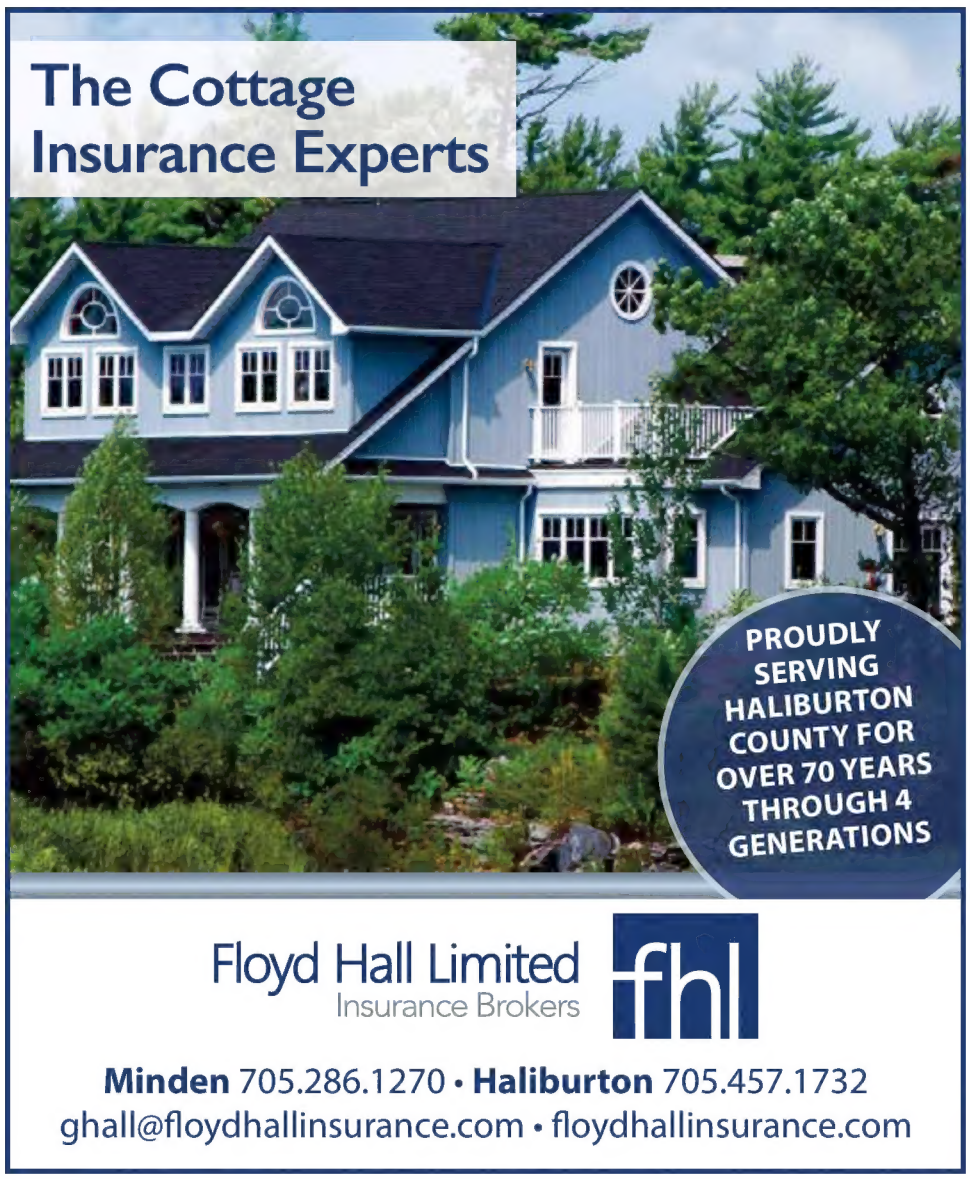
She said the designation mattered because overdose is often thought of as an issue affecting larger cities, "but we know that is not a reality.

"Rural communities like Haliburton are affected as well and they often face additional challenges such as greater distances to services, limited transportation, and fewer local supports."

Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland drug strategy co-ordinator Ashley Smoke. *File.*

She noted that according to the office of the chief coroner, 20 people died from opioid toxicity in Haliburton and Northumberland counties and Kawartha Lakes in 2025. So far in 2026, the number is 31 from January to May.

She said the region had higher rates of drug poisoning hospitalizations than the provincial average. Council made the declaration. *(County of Haliburton news compiled by Lisa Gervais)*



Just the Highlands

Highlander news

Left: Lions club member Renee Griffith accepts a $5 donation from Cathy Dunne. Top right: Kyle Munro smiles at volunteer Elizabeth Tice after making a donation. Bottom right: Lions club members David Mills and Sheldon Nicholls show off some of the spoils of the toll booth. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

Public pays the toll as Lions raise $7,500

By Mike Baker

Traffic was moving slowly throughout Haliburton village on Saturday (Aug. 1), though it was for a good cause as the Haliburton and District Lions Club held its annual toll booth fundraiser on the Maple Avenue bridge.

Volunteers set up around 8 a.m. and greeted drivers as they made their way in and out of town. One of those collecting, Renee Griffith, said hundreds of people dipped into their wallets to make a donation.

"Such a generous community – even those that haven't been able to give anything stop and wish us luck," said Griffith. One of the passersby, Cathy Dunne, smiled and dropped some cash in the bucket, saying she contributes every year.

David Mills, a longtime Lions club member, said the event raised more than $7,500, which supports various projects and causes in the area. He said the toll booth is one of the club's top fundraisers.

"This is money we would use to help people if they had a fire or other emergency, or someone who needed new glasses, hearing aids or a wheelchair," Mills said. "We provide a lot of help to the community that way, focusing on health and wellness."

Funds are also used to help plan the annual 'Stories in the Park', with the latest edition coming up Aug. 26 at Head Lake Park from noon to 2 p.m.

Mills said there will be fun for the whole family, with games such as bean bag toss, mini putt, basketball toss, ladder toss and a fishpond will be available. There will also be a kids' painting area. Gord Kidd will be performing, while children's author Carolyn Huizinga Mills will read her new award-winning book *I Drove my Bed to Grandma's House*.

Mills noted all children in attendance will receive a new book they can take home.

"There will be free hot dogs, juice and popcorn. For adults we ask for a donation, but it's open to anyone. It's a way for us to celebrate and thank the community for all their support over the year," Mills said.

Editorial opinion

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OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Best path forward

By Mike Baker

Carolyn Langdon's pitch to Dysart et al council last week (July 28) should be a no-brainer decision for local elected officials.

A member of the Friends of Grass Lake environmental advocacy group, Langdon encouraged the township to create a new trail system connecting future development on the township's 92-acre property to services and amenities within Glebe Park.

We've written extensively about Dysart's plans since it acquired the parcel in 2023 for $1.725 million. While we know there will be substantial residential development, there's also been space set aside for a new multi-use recreational facility, long-term care home and a public park. If all goes to plan, the area should become another hub of the downtown community.

It seems pretty important then that council finds ways for people to come and go, other than using four wheels. It would be nice for new residents of the subdivision to have something, like a footpath or trail, that allows them to freely move around.

Shortly after the township bought the property, I remember meeting with our late mayor, Murray Fearrey, to learn more about the municipality's vision. I was impressed by the foresight, even if there was some risk involved with the purchase.

While much of the early talk focused on single family homes and apartment complexes, there's potential for a new arena, curling club and swimming pool. Negotiations are continuing for a possible Extendicare site. One thing that has been pushed to the backburner though is public infrastructure.

This past spring even, councillors debated whether they should reduce the size of the planned park. Deputy mayor Pat Casey made the point that Haliburton already has a great facility in Head Lake Park in the downtown and he wouldn't want to overshadow that with a bigger and better park on the outskirts.

This trail seems like a good compromise. A proposed route will see the pathway stretch from the public park space on the south side of the property to its northern tip, tapping into an existing unofficial thoroughfare used by the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trail and Ski Club, and other groups, through the winter. From there, it will traverse other township-owned lots before tying into the Glebe Park system.

Once at Glebe Park, people would be able to make their way into the downtown utilizing the trail system that surrounds Head Lake. There have been concerns raised that people living in the subdivision would have no safely-navigable way of walking to the downtown, potentially leaving them isolated. A trail addresses that.

It also goes the other way – by proceeding, council would develop a key artery that anyone in the downtown or Halbiem subdivisions could use for a safe passage out to the new development. This becomes especially important when considering the potential new arena.

Langdon was unsure about potential costs, but I can't see it being excessive. The trail won't be paved and there's no need for the township to purchase additional land. It should be an easy job.

While council baulked at Langdon's first request to commit to formally protecting a right-of-way corridor in all development plans moving forward, it did agree to forward the request to its consultant, Biglieri Group, which is managing the project. Several members spoke favourably about the initiative.

It's going to be several years before this trail is online, if it's even approved. Dysart is still in the early stages of its first phase of servicing, with plans to provide sewer access. It will then sell the lots to a developer. The rumoured Extendicare deal seems to be edging closer, with mayor Walt McKechnie saying he hopes to have a firm commitment signed by the end of this term.

Things are happening and changing quickly with that CR21 property – finalizing plans for this new trail is important as the township maps out its best path forward.

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Treat everyone like someone

By Susan Tromanhauser

Cole Scheffee's youth was well-documented in local media.

Pictures of Scheffee playing hockey and snowboarding appeared in this newspaper. For example, he was also showcased as one of the first skateboarders to inaugurate Haliburton's original skate park near the library. As an adult, he has kept a lower profile; no media documentation, but continues to enjoy living in the Highlands, where his family has been for generations.

Scheffee is unclear exactly how many generations his clan has lived in the County. Ancestry has never been a topic of conversation, but he speculates his forefathers and foremothers could possibly be original settlers. While unsure of any specific family history, he remembers the property his grandfather owned since the 1950s near Kennisis Lake in what is now Haliburton Forest. He has fond memories of spending summers with the patriarch and feels the love of camping and fishing is in his blood. His grandfather helped Scheffee hone his fishing skills, a hobby he enjoys today. When pressed for the location of his favourite fishing spot, he is coy, responding "Lake Notelly." Scheffee reveals he has good luck fishing on smaller waterways, "any lake that's hard to get to" is where he likes to spend his time.

It is not all recreation for Scheffee as he has worked hard to own his home, just outside of Haliburton. After graduating from Hal High, many of his classmates left to explore the city, but Scheffee stayed, getting into the working world right away. He learned construction skills on the job, working for 12 years raising and leveling houses and cottages until suffering a back injury. Scheffee tried working through the pain but could no longer carry the cement blocks and do the digging underneath cottages the job required. It was while seeking medical treatment Scheffee discovered the downside of rural life – accessibility of health care.

Scheffee was frustrated at the need for constant travel outside the region for specialist appointments, but after driving many kilometres, an appropriate treatment plan was finally made. Scheffee had a successful procedure in Barrie to alleviate pain and is awaiting back surgery. He was unable to return to his original job of digging and masonry work, so Scheffee founded his own property maintenance company, and also assists a contractor with renovation projects.

His injury has halted snowboarding, but Scheffee still enjoys fishing and an occasional round of golf. A relaxing evening for Scheffee is to stay home with his two huskies. Being documented in *The Highlander* once again is a surprise, but this time instead of showcasing his athletic prowess as a hockey player or skateboarder, Scheffee wants to be noted as someone who, "treats everybody like they're a somebody. The world is not getting any kinder." Scheffee is content living in the Highlands - a place to slow down and where people are kind.

Cole Scheffee. *Submitted.*

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

'It's only 20 minutes'

Dear editor,

I fully understand the frustration over the temporary closure of Haliburton's LifeLabs.

Jane Taylor made excellent points in her recent letter. Seniors who cannot drive, residents without nearby family, the cost of taxis, and longer wait times - losing local access affects real people, and those concerns deserve to be heard.

Three years ago, Minden residents were raising those exact same concerns. The difference was that we weren't fighting to reopen a lab service - we were trying to save our emergency department.

While losing bloodwork access is inconvenient, losing emergency care can be life-altering. Yet when Minden's ER was permanently closed, we were told to adapt. We were told that an understaffed hospital 20 minutes away counted as "local" care and was in our best interest. Over and over, we heard the same four words: "It's only 20 minutes."

More than 25,000 people signed petitions. We held rallies, wrote ministers, and filled community centres. The ER closed anyway. Watching a critical emergency service disappear despite overwhelming advocacy changes your perspective. Did we ever stand a chance?

Many people in Haliburton County stood with Minden in 2023, and we haven't forgotten that. Together, we understood what was at stake. We tried to explain what losing local health care really means - and maybe now, more people understand.

Because, it turns out 20 minutes feels very different when you're the one making the drive.

I sincerely hope Haliburton's LifeLabs reopens soon. But more than that, I hope we can all agree that communities deserve better than being told to travel farther every time local care shrinks. These losses shouldn't be minimized, and they aren't something we should simply learn to accept.

After all, it's "only 20 minutes" to Minden for bloodwork.

Aurora McGinn
Minden

Dysart's deputy

Dear editor,

Recently, I was in the Dysart et al council chambers. On the agenda was the selection of a new deputy mayor. One of the candidates for the position, Nancy Wood-Roberts is retiring from elected office. A second candidate, Pat Casey, is campaigning to be mayor.

The provincial government has rules on how elections are conducted. The aim is for the playing field to be even for all candidates. There is more than one candidate for the position of mayor in October's election, with Greg Bishop and Andrew Nowell also registered.

As the Kafkaesque process to decide on the new deputy mayor proceeded last week, I was shocked that the eventual winner, Casey, did not withdraw his candidacy and was stunned at the speech given by said candidate.

The retiring council member Nancy Wood-Roberts has served her constituents well in all her years of service. She is always well prepared when she is at council meetings. I recall one time when she told a fellow councillor that the issue he was asking about was already covered in his agenda package.

In addition to serving her community by being on council, Nancy serves us in another way. She is a nurse at the hospital. She was on the frontlines during the COVID-19 pandemic. She would have served us well if she had been elevated to deputy mayor. She also would not put any other candidate seeking office at a disadvantage.

A resignation from the new deputy mayor would not be inappropriate and the councillors for Wards 3, 4 and 5 should explain to their constituents why they voted the way they did. Nancy Wood-Roberts should be our deputy mayor.

Peter McLuskey
Eagle Lake

In good hands

Dear editor,

Recently, my family became closely involved with local health care. My daughter was facing late-stage breast cancer, which had over time developed metastases. Although we had hoped she could be at home throughout the course of her illness, even with support from homecare services, there came a point where a transfer to hospital was needed.

This leads to my reason for writing. In short, the local health service staff are wonderfully caring and compassionate people and need to be applauded.

They go about their work with quiet professionalism and competence. Always sensitive to the needs of their patient, they convey assurance to those around, especially the close family. In our experience, the staff were open too. What surprised me one day last week during a visit, I found my daughter in her bed after it had been wheeled outside, enjoying the beautiful summer weather. On another occasion a friend had arranged a gift of a 'sound bath', which also needed to take place outside and staff cleared and raked an area in the back, including trimming some tree foliage. There were many other small recognitions of detail that were helpful to our daughter.

I want also to recognize the ambulance staff who were very prompt and careful in moving their patient in and out of transportation as the transfer to the emergency was expedited.

My point is that what we may lack locally in bells and whistles, we make up for through a staff that takes special pride in serving their community. This value is embedded, of course, in staff as members of the community themselves. It is any organization's dream to have such self-motivated staff.

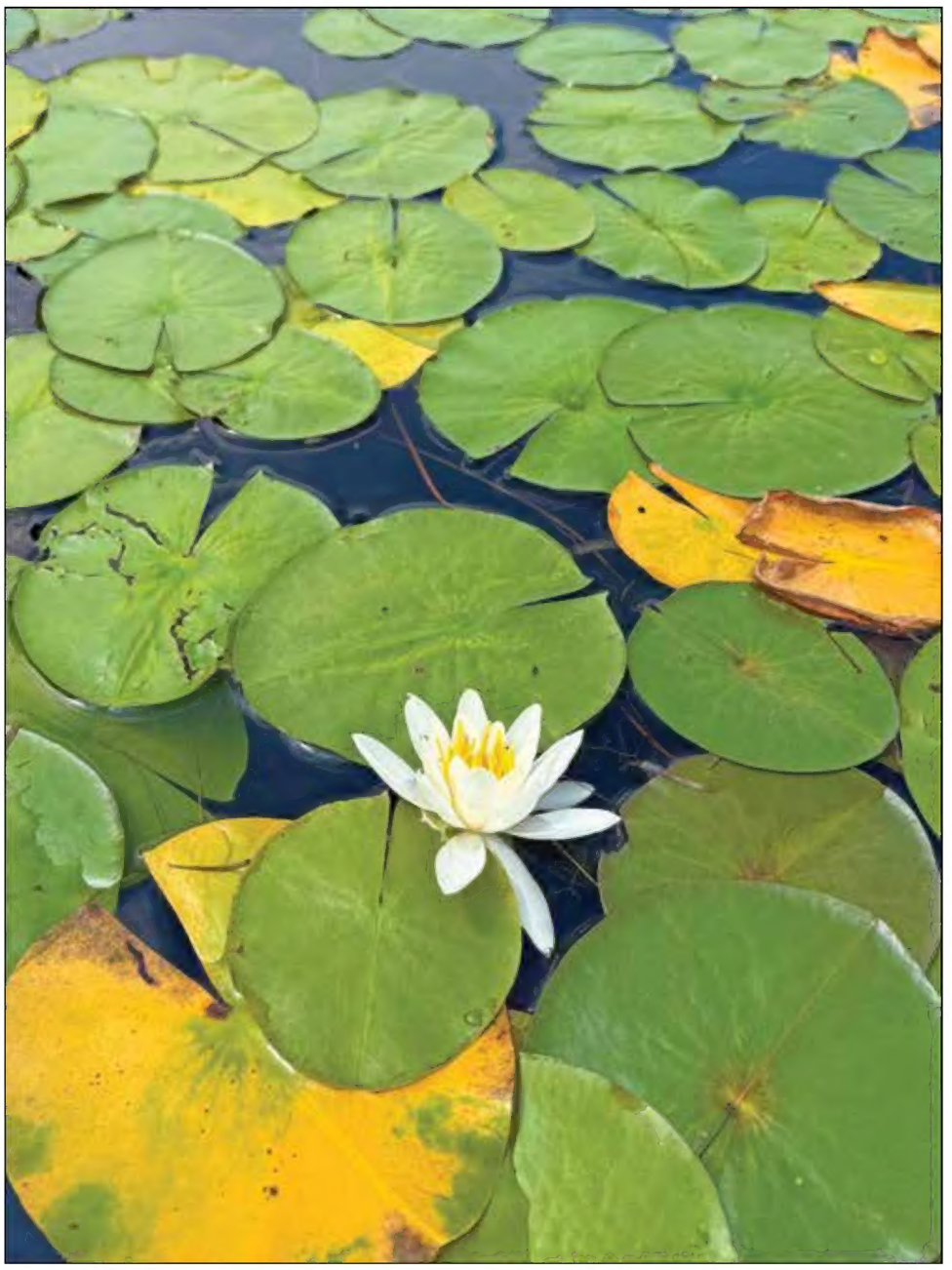
Should it need to be said, my daughter didn't make it. Cancer can be a tough foe.

But, even so, I would like our community to know that their health care is in good hands if they face similar circumstance.

Thank you to everyone.

Foster Loucks
Haliburton

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Ashlee Gross found herself kayaking among the lilies while out on Grass Lake recently.

What the HALIBURTON PODCAST

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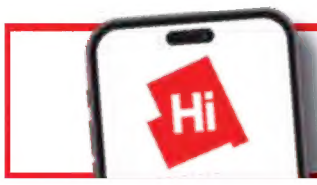
THIS WEEK:

Meet Minden Hills Mayoral Candidate Bob Carter

Highlander people



thehighlander.app

ALL ABOUT HI, THE HIGHLANDER'S NEW APP

Why we made it

Three years ago, Meta banned Canadian media companies from Facebook and Instagram. Since then, the quality of information on these platforms has deteriorated. Instead of trustworthy news, there is misinformation, anger, and division. We believe that's bad for Haliburton County.

We created this app to solve that problem: to make a space that is just for our community, without the downsides of social media.

What's on it

You'll find verified, accurate news from our reporters, including breaking news alerts. You will also find information from local not-for-profits, service organizations and municipalities. The feed is in strict chronological order – there's no algorithm to track or manipulate you.

How to get it

The best way is to go to thehighlander.app on your cellphone On your first visit, you'll get a message encouraging you to install the app on your phone. Click this and the app will appear on your home screen so you can easily find it again.

How to use it

You don't need to create an account to use the app. But if you do, there are two benefits. First, you can choose which categories you want to see. Second, you can get notifications on your phone. There's a breaking news category, so anytime there is something urgent and important happening in the county, you can be notified. To create an account, just follow the links on the screen.

Why you can't comment on it

We know you might enjoy commenting on Facebook. But a downside of comments is that misinformation can spread. Without moderation, which is an impossible job for us, the value of the app would be lost. The Highlander's reporters are trained journalists, which means they follow rules so that what they post is as accurate as possible. They are also accountable because they live and work in our community. If they make a mistake, readers tell us – and we fix it. We hope that this approach will create an environment that is useful and pleasant.

How to advertise on Hi

We will be funding the app by offering a limited number of spots to local advertisers who want to reach people in Haliburton County. For more information, contact Aidan (aidan@thehighlander.ca).

How to give us feedback

Email Adam (adam@thehighlander.ca) or stop by our office in Haliburton village.

It's nicer here

Hi has a slogan: It's nicer here. Imagine getting all your important news and information about Haliburton County from a trustworthy source. No algorithms, no trolls, no lies. Just 100% pure news and information. It's calm and friendly. It's real. Just like our beautiful Highlands. It's nicer here.

thehighlander.app

A father's journal, his daughter's legacy

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

When Randall Linton originally sat down to write *This Little Light of Mine*, he had no intention of becoming a published author. He simply wanted to write a manuscript of memories for his five grandchildren, ensuring they grew up knowing the story of their aunt Elisa.

Elisa Linton died 10 years ago this Halloween at the age of 22 from Sanfilippo syndrome, a rare, terminal genetic condition sometimes referred to as childhood Alzheimer's.

This Little Light of Mine draws heavily on journals and photographs Linton maintained throughout Elisa's life, providing a real-time account from a father's perspective. The memoir was originally intended strictly as a private family record, Linton explained.

"I wrote the book originally for my grandchildren," Linton said while sitting in his cottage that overlooks Minden's Bob Lake. "I really wanted them to know who their aunt Elisa was, the inspiration she was, and the contribution she made to society."

However, after sharing his writing with some close friends, including a professional copywriter and an author, Linton expanded his manuscripts after getting some feedback.

"They both got back to me about a month later and said they felt this book needed to get out to a wider audience," Linton recalled. "There's so much in it that would benefit people."

The memoir has reached readers far beyond the lake and the Linton family. After selling out its initial 250-copy run at back-to-back launch events in June, the author ordered another batch to meet demand.

While he worked full-time for much of Elisa's life, Linton's wife, Elisabeth, stepped down from her career as a food stylist to care for their daughter and serve as executive director of the Sanfilippo Children's Research Foundation (SCRF), a charity the couple founded.

"I witnessed all of this," Linton explained. "I saw what Elisabeth was doing with our kids, going on media interviews, promoting the foundation. I thought when I sat down to write the book, it would be better coming from me who witnessed this... from a husband and father's perspective."

The father said that at times, writing proved to be very emotional and overwhelming, sometimes forcing him to step away for weeks at a time because memories of hospital stays and difficult breathing episodes resurfaced. But, the journey ultimately offered him a sense of processing, Linton recalled.

"It became very cathartic for me," Linton said. "It really helped me deal with a lot of what I was going through... having it come full circle."

Sanfilippo syndrome is caused by a missing enzyme that breaks down natural occurring cellular waste in the body. Without it, toxins build up in organs and the brain, causing a progressive decline in the body's function.

Randall Linton stands with his book next to a tree and plaque, honouring his late daughter, Elisa. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Linton reflected on the realities of watching his youngest daughter regress while at the same time trying to navigate the challenges of raising two older children and holding onto family faith.

"It's bloody tough. It's hell going through, watching your child go through this," Linton said. "When we closed the doors, and it was just us, it was hard… If it wasn't for our faith, I don't know if we would have got through it as a couple."

Through the SCRF, the Linton family has raised more than $8 million and funded 32 research projects globally. Proceeds from *This Little Light of Mine* directly support two primary research centres: one in Cleveland, Ohio, and the other at CHU Ste-Justine in Montreal.

At the book launch in June, Dr. Alexey Pshezhetsky, a lead researcher from Montreal, spoke to attendees about how the foundation's $1 million bursary is helping research that has now reached the cusp of clinical trials, Linton said.

"Seeing Elisa's legacy live on in both Cleveland and Montreal... you can't really put it into words," Linton said. "It's a real blessing."

For the Lintons, their cottage in Minden holds a particularly special place in Elisa's memory.

"We would sit her in the screened-in porch so she could feel the breeze and hear the activity on the waterfront," Linton recalled. "She loved it here."

A plaque sits outside, near the screened porch next to a tree planted in Elisa's honour, marking the spot where her ashes are buried overlooking the lake she loved.

Sales from *This Little Light of Mine* go directly to the SCRF. Copies can be ordered directly through the foundation's website at alifeforelisa.org or by emailing elisabeth@alifeforelisa.org.

It's nicer here

Highlander events

Summer sizzle

Haliburton's biggest party of the summer went off without a hitch at Head Lake Park on Tuesday (Aug. 4) as Haliburton Rotary presented its annual Summerfest. Running from 4 to 8 p.m., residents were free to check out various booths, with free kids activities, facepainting, hot air balloon rides and family games available. Rotary volunteers were selling beef on a bun and hot dogs, with complimentary cotton candy and popcorn given away. Music in the Park featured County rocker Ryan Van Lee, while the evening ended as it traditionally does – with the revealing of the Rotary club's car draw. This year's winner was Greg Bishop from Algonquin Highlands, who gets to choose between a 2026 Chevrolet AWD Trailblazer or $40,000 cash. *(Mike Baker)*

Top: Markie Dick holds Daisy the Burmese python while Zoo to You's Alex Pereira looks on. *Photo by Adam Frisk.* Middle: Two teenagers wracking up volunteer hours. Bottom: The winner of this year's Haliburton Rotary Car draw is Greg Bishop. *Photo courtesy of Haliburton Rotary.*

Gull Lake Waterfront

4 Season Cottage! | $859,900

Experience the beauty of Gull Lake from this 4-season waterfront retreat featuring panoramic lake views, crystal-clear water, and a family-friendly sandy shoreline. The bright open-concept interior offers vaulted ceilings, three bedrooms, including a primary suite with 2 piece ensuite and walk-in closet, plus a full walkout basement with high ceilings. Enjoy a spacious lakeside deck, excellent boating, swimming and fishing, extended floating dock, drilled well, winterized comfort and ample parking. An included pop-up camper provides extra space for guests at this exceptional original-owner property.

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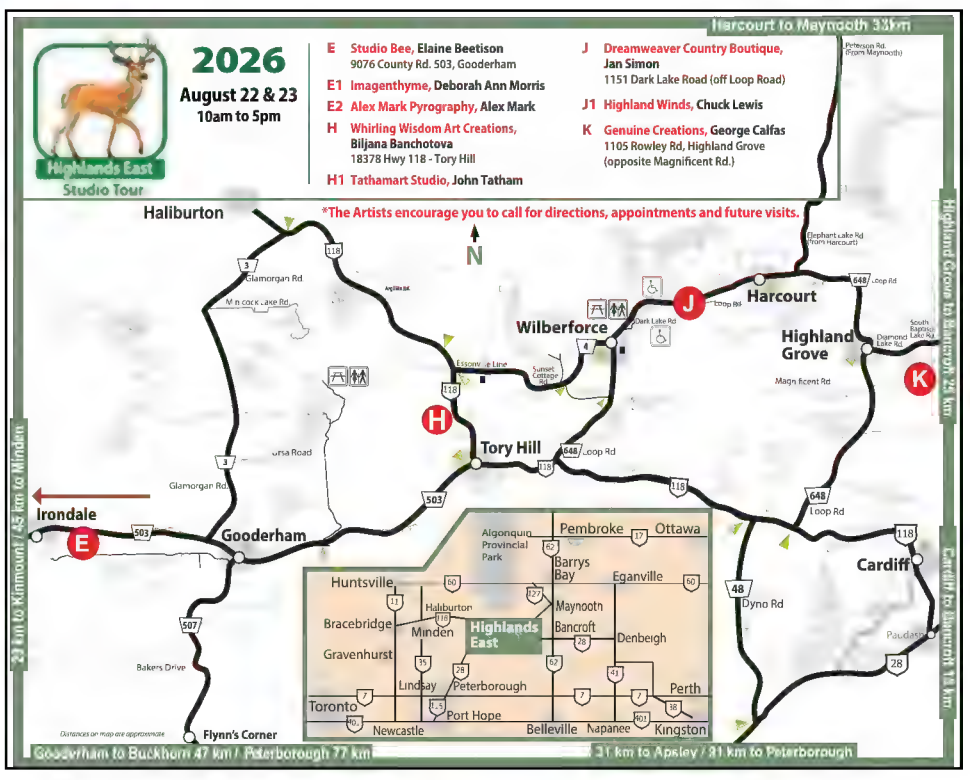

Highlander events

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GARDENING FOR LIFE

School's in for art

The century-old Donald schoolhouse property was jam-packed this past weekend (Aug. 1-2) as owner, April Gates of Blackbird Pottery, put on her 12th annual Schoolhouse Pop-Up Market. The event featured more than a dozen artists and makers from Haliburton County and beyond, with disciplines including ceramics, woodworking, jewellery-making, textiles, botanicals, sculptures, prints, paintings and vintage items.

Top: Miranda Britton travelled from Windermere in the Muskokas to showcase her handmade jewellery. Middle: Marc and Gesa Haase enjoy a laugh with Blackbird Pottery's April Gates as they pick up two new bowls. Bottom: Collaborating artists Hendrika Sonnenberg and Chris Hanson showcased the same styled styrofoam they used to construct a life-size Zamboni a few years ago. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

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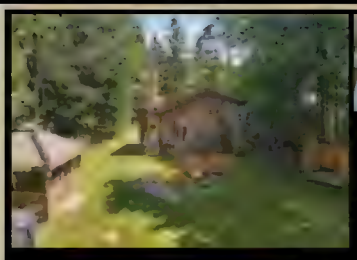


Jim Allder* (705) 935-1112

Blairhampton Road $469,000
- 3bd, 4-Szn Home +2bd, 3-Szn Cabin
- Private Near Lakes & Trails, In-Floor Heat
- Gazebo, Firepit & Outdoor Shower

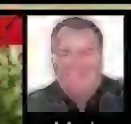
Andy Campbell* (705) 854-0292

3055 Gelert Road $799,000
- Century Home on 11 Acres with Pond
- Commercial Kitchen + Smokehouse
- Lrg Barn, Drive Shed, Garage, Treehouse

Gloria Carnochan* & Breann Budel* (705) 754-1932

West Guilford Home $524,900
- 3-bed home on 4.9 acres, private
- Walk to lake, garage, heat pumps
- Renovate or build; big frontage

NEW PRICE



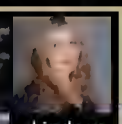
Mark Dennys* (705) 457-0473

Kashagawigamog Lk $1,350,000
- 4 Bed, Yr-Rnd Home/Ctg, Dbl Garage
- 100ft Water Frtg, Stunning Sunset Exp.
- Sunroom, 5-Lk Chain, Geothermal Heat

NEW LISTING

Tom Ecclestone* (705) 754-5101

A Must See in Wilberforce!
- Beautiful, immaculate home
- 3 Bedrooms, 2 four piece baths
- Impressive landscaping/gardens



Lindsay Elder* (705) 457-5878

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- Now is the perfect time to get your home or cottage on the market!
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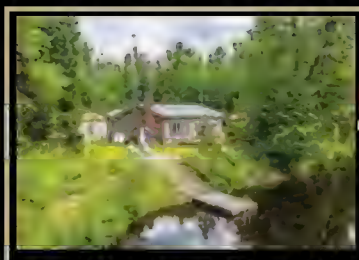
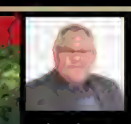


Melanie Maxwell-Hevesi** & Andrea Wilson** (705) 854-1000

Irondale River Retreat $575,000
- 3-Bed Cottage On 9.1 Scenic Acres
- 2,000+ft Waterfront, Gazebo & Deck
- Clear Water & Stunning Sunsets

NEW LISTING



Andrew Hodgson** (705) 854-0130

Haliburton Home $299,000
- 1 Bed / 1 Bath, 1.23 Private Acres
- Woodstove, New Windows, Metal Roof
- Gardens, Firepit & Tiny Living

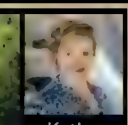
Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** (705) 457-2128 ext. 133

Miskwabi Lake – $1,099,000
- Spectacular Point Lot with 330' frontage
- 4 Season, 3 Br + Den. 2-Lake Chain
- Easy Year Round Access, Garage

NEW PRICE

Karyn Linton Marra* (705) 306-7515

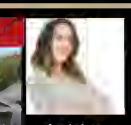
Long Lake Gem! $474,999
- Beautifully renovated top to bottom
- 3 bd. 1 bth, large deck, fully furnished
- Perfect for active cottagers!



Kathy Martin* (705) 457-7592

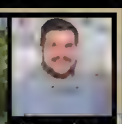
Minden Home $660,000
- 3 Beds/2 Bath, 2,100+SqFt, 3.49 Acres
- Massive Garage/Workshop, Open Cpt
- Private Backyard Pond, 3 Mins to Minden

NEW PRICE



Ashley McKeigue* (705) 854-1833

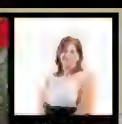
Minden Home $775,000
- 4 Bed, 3 Bath With Finished Lower Level
- Sunroom, Double Garage & A/C
- 2021 Built + Tarion Warranty



Brandon Nimigon*** (705) 457-8631

Minden Home $329,888
- Well-maintained in-town home
- Over 1,000 SF, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath
- Ample storage w/ 1-car garage & 2 sheds

NEW LISTING



Karen Nimigon** (705) 457-6505

Bitter Lake $749,000
- 3 Beds, 2 Baths, Sunroom & Deck
- Southwest Exposure & Sandy Shore
- 4-Season Comfort Near Amenities

NEW LISTING

Kelly Kay* (705) 457-6841 Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

Haliburton Home $529,900
- 2-Bed Home + 1-Bed Apartment
- Deeded Lake Access Across Road
- Double Garage On Private Lot

NEW LISTING

Darlene Reil* (705) 854-2055

Elephant Lake Gem $1,200,000
- 220' Sandy Shore On 3-Lake Chain
- Cathedral Ceilings & Stone Fireplace
- Sauna, Double Lot & Huge Deck

Christine Sharp* (416) 566-1592

Beech Lake Farm $1,875,000
- Historic Reno'd Farmhouse on 100+acr
- 2,400+ft Beech Lake Frontage
- Huge 50'x100' barn w/offices, 8 Pastures

Melanie Vigrass* (705) 754-5494

In-Town Minden Home $399,900
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Highlander events

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Art on tour

There was a much different feel to this year's 20th annual Tour de Forest, with the popular event gathering artists together at the Haliburton Legion for the first time. Organizer Charlene McConnell said there was a strong turnout, with more than 600 people attending the three-day show, which opened Friday (July 31). With 22 artists featured, McConnell said people liked the idea of seeing everyone together in one spot. Previously, the tour was held in locations across the County, with artists welcoming the public into their home studios. McConnell said she wasn't sure which format will be used for the 21st tour in 2027. "For some people, it can be pretty difficult moving their products and getting things set up. We're going to have to get together, talk, see how this worked for everyone and then decide, collectively, what we want to do," she said.

Top: Lee Doucett had a great day on Saturday, selling 11 of her paintings, but held onto one of her favourites - this impressionist piece 'Killbear Reflections'. Bottom: Customers check out jewellery by County artists Susan and Michael Butz. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

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Edison Brown
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Graham Bishop
4-6 Red

Hudson Lynch
7-9 Grey

Kora Reid
10-13 Yellow

Nora Louch
4-6 White

Olivia Emmerson
10-13 Pink

Above: Things get a little bogged down on the pitch as players follow the ball. Inset: A young Highlander controls the ball out of the air and progresses down field. *Photos submitted.*

Player development taking shape at halfway stage

Now that Haliburton Grassroots Soccer has reached the middle of its season, our amazing volunteer coaches are noticing impressive progress with every passing week.

Players are forging deeper friendships while engaging in spirited, healthy competition during games. High spirits and cheerful chatter fill the air both on and off the field, as the kids fondly reminisce about their favourite plays and funniest accidental blunders.

For the parents and coaches watching, it is a joy to witness the personal development of these young athletes, who tackle each new skill and lesson with enthusiasm and grit. With another half of the season still to go, these determined players have already given everyone on the sidelines plenty to cheer about. *(Submitted)*

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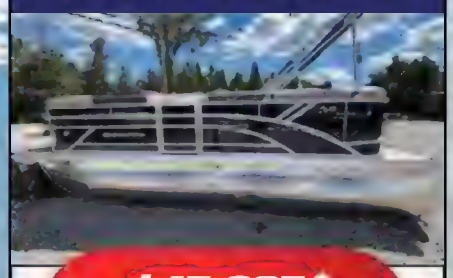

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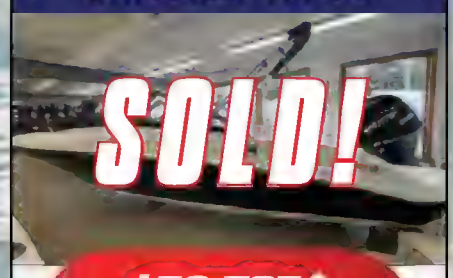

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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Cadets after school starts at 5 p.m., meeting starts at 6 p.m. Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Darts league 7 p.m. start.
Wednesdays: Office and clubroom closed
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, March to December; ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month, February to November.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prize each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets are $2 per draw; fun darts at 4:30 p.m. onwards; 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday closed; Tuesday 5-9 p.m.; Wednesday closed; Thursday 3-6 p.m., Friday 3-7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday closed.

Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Friday** with full menu and daily special including liver lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 9:30 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: every other **Friday**
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 10 a.m. to noon, Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m. Darts Aug. 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 7 p.m.; Mexican train dominos at 7 p.m.; Aug. 10 painting class at 10 a.m.
Tuesday: closed, special events only. General meeting Aug. 11 at 7 p.m.; exercise club Aug. 11 and 18 at 1 p.m.
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Darts Aug. 12, 19 and 26 at 2 p.m.; Ladies auxiliary quick supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Horseshoes Aug. 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 7 p.m.; HHHS social recreation Aug. 13 and 27 at 10 a.m.; Painting class with Luann Aug. 20.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m. Wings and jam session Aug. 14 and 28 from 5 to 8 p.m.; Fish and chips Aug. 7 and 21; Seniors lunch Aug. 28 from noon to 1 p.m.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m. Meat draw Aug. 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 3 p.m.; karaoke Aug. 22 at 8 p.m.; Dorothy Knight Golf Tournament Aug. 29 at Lakeside Golf Course.
Sunday: closed, special events only. Ladies auxiliary breakfast Aug. 9 at 11 a.m.

Branch 566 Cardiff

Hours: **Sunday and Monday** 3 to 6 p.m. and **Thursday** 3 to 9 p.m.
Events: Breakfast on the first **Sunday** of each month from 9 to 11 a.m.; euchre on the second **Sunday** of each month at 12:30 p.m.
Shuffleboard every **Thursday** from 7 to 9 p.m.
Music and jam session ever second **Saturday** of the month from 1 to 4 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Branch 441 Kinmount

Mondays: Bid euchre at 1 p.m.
Tuesdays: Closed
Wednesdays: Mixed darts at 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Closed
Fridays: Clubroom opens at 4 p.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with play beginning at 6:45 p.m. Supper specials starting at 5 p.m.
Saturdays: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw at 5:30 p.m.

EVENTS

Aug. 6, 1 p.m. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is hosting a free screening of the documentary *Love, Scott*, presented in partnership with Pride in the Highlands. All are welcome.

Aug. 6, 7 p.m. Canadian singer Leisa Way brings her Wayward Wind Band to Haliburton for 'Sweet Dreams', a tribute to the late Patsy Cline. For tickets visit tickets.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca.

Aug. 6, 7:30 p.m. Ctrl-Art-Del presents *The Welkin*, an amateur production by Lucy Kirkwood at Haliburton Highlands Museum. Recommended for ages 16 and up. There are also shows running Aug. 7 and 8 at the same time. Tickets available at ctrlartdel.ca.

Aug. 7 and 8. The biggest little fair around returns for another year in Wilberforce. Great fun for the whole family. Enter competitions in advance or just come for the day. Get all the details at wilberforcefair.com.

Aug. 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sixth annual Kash Art on the Water artisan event, taking place on properties around Lake Kashagawigamog. Guests are encouraged to tour the lake by boat.

Aug. 11, 10 a.m. Free guided tour of the Haliburton Sculpture Forest. Meet at the kiosk in the Haliburton School of Art + Design parking lot at 297 College Dr. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Tours are held every Tuesday through July and August rain or shine and can take up to two hours. By donation.

Aug. 11, 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Pay-what-you-can community event hosted by Highlands Opera Studio at Abbey Gardens. Hear 2026 HoS season participants sing their personal favourite music, other than opera, and talk to them about what got them on the path to singing.

Aug. 12, 4:45 p.m. Stop by the Haliburton School of Art + Design for an artist talk with alumni Alex Chouinard McLellan about her continued study of craft post-ceramics certificate and the creative splicing of formal and informal working opportunities.

Aug. 13, 5 to 6:30 p.m. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre welcomes Andrea Coysh for a special presentation 'hands at the loom: weaving heritage in Minden'. She will present a live barn loom demonstration and discuss local weaving traditions and sustainable textile practices. All are welcome.

Aug. 14, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Looking for something creative to do? Aging Together as Community and the Arts Council - Haliburton Highlands are hosting an interactive art workshop at the West Guilford Recreation Centre. Guest speaker is Chris Lynd, on the value of art in building healthy, connected communities. Other featured artists include Noelia Marziali, Harvey Walker, Ella Leis and Kathy Marlene Bailey. Book your spot by Aug. 7 by contacting 705-717-5334 or agingtogetherhc@gmail.com.

Aug. 15, 1 to 4 p.m. Outdoor worship concert at Minden Bible Church (177 Bobcaygeon Rd.). Performance by the Trentside Youth Band. Life FM street team will be on-site, bbq and family games. Admission by donation. Please bring a lawn chair, blanket and refillable water bottle.

Aug. 17, 11 a.m. Pride in the Highlands is holding a flag-raising ceremony at Minden Hills township offices, kicking off Pride Week in Haliburton County. There will also be observances at the Algonquin Highlands municipal office at 1123 North Shore Rd. at 1 p.m. and in Haliburton at A.J. LaRue Arena at 4 p.m.

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills proposes to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey parcel of land more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLRA2025102:** The Original Allowance for a Road, Part of Lot 76 and Part of Sixth Street Registered Plan No. 172 and is identified as Allister Street and locally known as McKay Street, lying in front of Property Roll #4616-010-000-59300, Geographic Township of Anson

The above noted application is available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE that Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will consider a By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance at the Regular Meeting of August 13, 2026.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on August 12, 2026.

AND TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience.

Donna Sisson
Clerical Assistant, Building, By-Law and Planning
705-286-1260 Ext. 509
dsisson@mindenhills.ca

Clowning around with Minden Rotary

By Lisa Gervais

People always get a kick out of posing for a photo with Minden Rotary's celebrity clowns. *File.*

Organizers of RotaryFest 2026 in Minden have expanded to a two-day offering this year.

"RotaryFest is designed to present a fresh, new look while celebrating community spirit, partnerships, and volunteerism. Over two days, the event will combine live entertainment, family-focused activities, and opportunities to highlight the important work of not-for-profit organizations and local businesses," the club said.

Saturday night (Aug. 15) will feature a concert and street dance at the outdoor parking area adjacent to the old fire hall from 6-9 p.m. Dubbed Brews Beats and Eats it will include live music by Jeff Moulton and Recycled Teenagers. Tickets available at Let's Get Local, Minden Auto Care, Burnt Crust or at the event.

Sunday (Aug. 16) will be Sunday Funday, featuring not-for-profit partners, downtown merchants, and local vendors along Bobcaygeon Road, Prince Street, and part of the municipal parking area.

Planned attractions include: classic cars, motorcycles, off-road vehicles, a dunk tank, a kids' zone operated by early childhood educators, artists, and a junk in your trunk sale. Rotary's celebrity clowns will also be in town for the weekend.

"The township is deeply rooted in community service, and this event aims to encourage greater involvement in local service clubs while highlighting where support is most needed," Minden Rotary said.

"Earlier this year, the response to local flooding showed just how strongly Minden residents come together in times of need. Neighbours supported one another, helped protect the town, and demonstrated the power of community action when a challenge is visible and urgent.

"RotaryFest also helps draw attention to less visible challenges across the township, including home heating insecurity, food insecurity, animal welfare concerns, family violence, and other ongoing social issues supported by local organizations. By bringing these needs into the spotlight, the event helps residents better understand where help is needed."

Minden Hills coun. and Rotarian, Shirley Johannessen, spoke about the event at a July 23 council meeting.

"I would like to take a moment to recognize the vision behind RotaryFest 2026. This is much more than a festival or weekend of entertainment. There is an opportunity to bring our community together, showcase our local businesses, and shine a light on the many organizations that support residents throughout the year.

"What stands out to me is that this event is designed to connect people, not only through music, activities and family fun, but by introducing residents to the service clubs, and community organizations that make Minden Hills such a caring and resilient place.

"Following the challenges our community has faced this year, this event reminds us of what we can accomplish when we work together. I believe RotaryFest reflects the spirit of Minden Hills community partnerships and service."

She thanked organizers and said the Rotary Club of Minden is looking forward to a successful event, not only for this year, but for years to come. See more at mindenrotary.ca

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• Recycle at any Waste Disposal Site: Household batteries and empty plastic oil containers.

• Recycle at Minden or Haliburton Home Hardware: Paint cans and paint aerosols (full, partially full or empty), finishing oils, sealers and undercoats.

These items don't need to be brought to a Household Hazardous Waste Event. They can be safely recycled year-round at the locations listed.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

• August 13 – Regular Council Meeting
• September 10 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• *As the Shoreline Disappears* by glass artist Brad Copping, will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until September 19. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation.

• We will be hosting a free screening of *Love, Scott* (2018) on Thursday, August 6 at 1:00 PM. Directed by Laura Marie Wayne, the film follows gay musician Scott Jones after a brutal attack leaves him paralyzed. Filmed over three years, the documentary traces his journey through grief and trauma toward resilience, love, and queer identity. Presented in partnership with Haliburton County Public Library and Pride in the Highlands, this screening is open to all ages. Admission is free. No pre-registration is required.

• *Miijim: Traditional Foods of the Anishinaabeg*, on loan from MUSE: Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora will be on display at the Cultural Centre until August 29.

• The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature's Place is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am - 4 pm for tours and self-guided activities! Stop by for drop-in activities for children each day from 11 am – 12 pm. This week: Tues – tin punch paper craft, Wed – watercolour painting, Thurs – master gardeners' program, Fri – embroidery, Sat – lino printing.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

BID OPPORTUNITY

The Township of Minden Hills currently has the following tenders available:

• RFP No. RDS 26-04 Minden Library Retaining Wall

Closing date: August 12, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

See Bid Opportunities on our website for more information.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Check, update, or add yourself to the voters list with the Elections Ontario online tool until August 12, or directly with the Township after this date. Visit www.registertovoteon.ca

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FOR SALE

carry a wide variety of native Ontario perennials, grasses, small trees and shrubs for gardens and habitat projects. Visit haliburton micromeadows.ca or follow us on Facebook @haliburton micromeadows

CONDO FOR RENT / SALE – beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, airconditioned Condo on top floor, corner unit, providing stunning view of Head Lake. Granite View is located at 4 Lake Street, only 5 minute walk to lake & town amenities. Open concept, includes 1 indor parking spot, storage locker, radiant heat, water & stainless appliancies. Move in ready, all new paint. Rent $2,900. per month or purchase $559,000. Contact 705-455-7568

FOR SALE - MERCEDES BENZ - 2017 GLA250 - 4MATIC - 69,000km - always garaged, serviced at MB Peterborough, mint condition, charcoal, summer and winter tires on OEM wheels, certified, $20,000 obo, text (705) 455-2333

YARD SALE

YARD SALE – 1171 Grass Lake Road, Saturday, August 8th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Misc items, some antiques.

MOVING / YARD SALE – 68 Halbiem Cres, Saturday, August 8th from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Too many items to list. Everything must go! Make an offer!

WANTED

WANTED ANTIQUES

Furniture, old signs, gold or costume jewellery, wrist and pocket watches, old coins, sterling silver, teacups, china, books, records, miltary items, paintings, **anything old**.

BOB CARRUTH • 705-887-1672

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Skycor Locksmithing
info@skycor.ca
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www.skycor.ca
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CLASSIFIEDS $9

BUSINESS BUY AND SELL

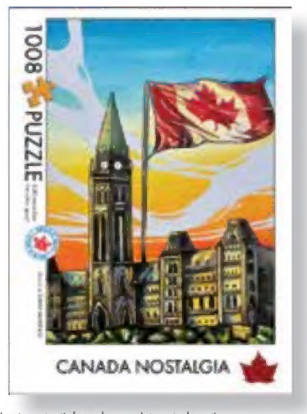
LEBOLAW HALIBURTON

Looking to buy or sell a business? Contact LeboLaw at 705-455-6355

BUSINESS BUY-SELL

PUZZLE FACTORY

Nationally recognized Made in Canada puzzle brand in 6th year of operations. Scalable with Canada-wide retail presence and established DTC, B2B, custom and wholesale channels. Clients include national and regional non-profits, provincial parks, governments, breweries, galleries and museums. Featured on CBC, CTV, Cottage Life and the Globe and Mail. Includes all manufacturing equipment for a seamless transition of this growing and popular business.



For more information contact:
Lebolaw at 705-455-6355 or office@lebolaw.ca

This is not a solicitation. Lebolaw represents the business(es) listed above and cannot represent or provide legal advice to potential purchasers. Interested parties are requested to make contact through a licensed real estate agent or lawyer. Brokers protected.

HELP WANTED

Haliburton

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton
Requires
Multiple Citizen Appointments to the Joint Accessibility Committee

The County of Haliburton benefits from the involvement of local residents who help County Council make decisions about the programs and services provided to our citizens. It is County Council's desire for appointments to the various boards and committees to be reflective of the demographic and geographical makeup of the County of Haliburton. Currently the Committee is comprised of one elected County Council representative from each of the member municipalities. Qualified applicants to the Joint Accessibility Committee will be:

- At least 18 years old
- A Canadian Citizen
- A resident of Haliburton County
- A public person living with a disability

Applications

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and application form. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca **no later than 4:30pm on August 7, 2026.**

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

Walker's HEATING & COOLING SYSTEMS

If you are looking for a rewarding career in the HVAC industry, we want to talk to you!

We are looking for Gas Technicians and Air Conditioning Technicians to join our growing company to complement our installation and service teams.

Training provided to the right candidate with room for growth and advancement, including apprenticeships.

Must have valid G driver's license and clean record.

Top wages, Excellent benefit package, Flexible full time or part time hours available.

Walker's Heating & Cooling is located at 81 Mallard Rd, Haliburton and has been serving our growing community since 1982.

Check us out at www.walkershvac.com

Email your resume today to info@walkershvac.com

We thank all applicants for their interest, however only those candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.

ROYAL HOMES

Part-Time Client Services & Administrative Assistant

Royal Homes Cottage Country — Minden, Ontario

Job Type: Part-time, on-site
Pay: $19 to $22 per hour based on qualifications

Royal Homes Cottage Country is seeking a dependable, organized and personable Part-Time Client Services & Administrative Assistant to support our Minden Sales Centre.

This is a client-facing position. The successful candidate will often be the first person to welcome prospective clients, answer their questions and help them take the next step toward building a new home or cottage.

The position combines reception, customer service, client follow-up, file organization and general office administration. We are looking for someone who communicates professionally, pays close attention to details and can keep multiple client files and follow-up items organized. Working knowledge of Microsoft Office and/or Google Workspace preferred.

Please send Resume to Tan@royalhomescottagecountry.com

(Please note only qualified candidates will be contacted)

Highlander classifieds

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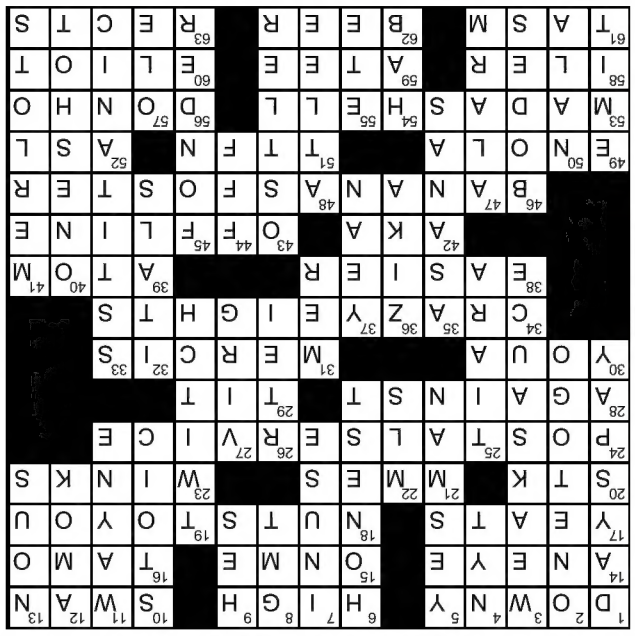
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



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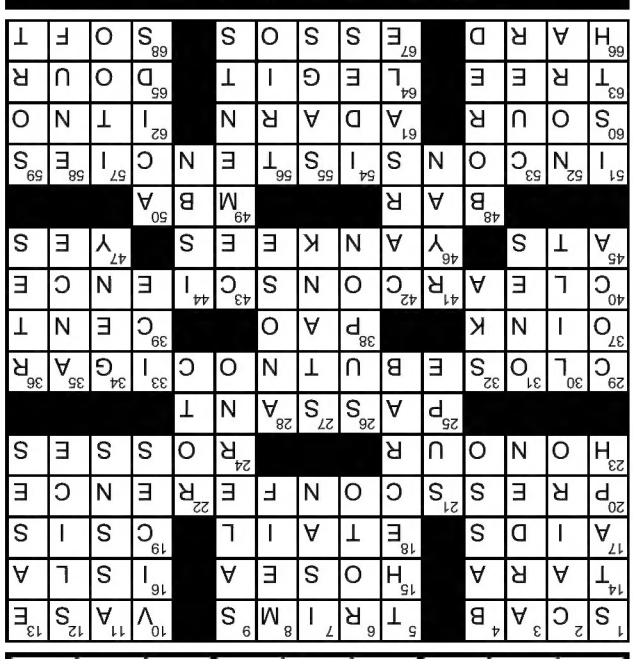

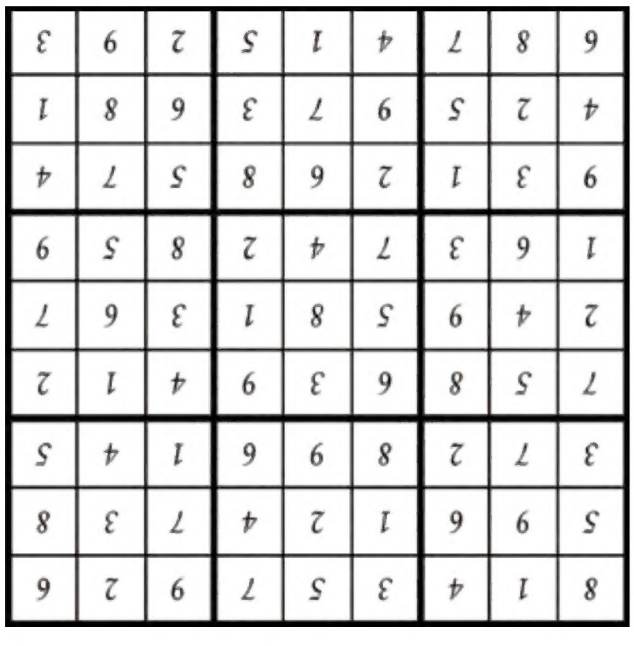

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Leonard "Len" Salvatori

November 6, 1929 ~ August 2, 2026

It is with profound sadness that the family of Len Salvatori announce his peaceful passing, surrounded by family, on Sunday, August 2, 2026, at the age of 96. Born on November 6, 1929, in the Township of Dysart, Len was the eldest of 6 children born to Armando Salvatori and Mary Biagi.

Loving husband of 43 years to Betty Rae Bush (predeceased 2001). Beloved father of Andy (Cathy), Lisa Shankman (Bernie), and Laurie (Kevin). Dearest Grandpa to Natalia (Brad), Andrea, Jonathan, Melissa (Daniel), Nikko, and Morgan. Step Grandpa to Drew, Vanessa, Lisa, and Nicole. Step Great (Super) Grandpa to Benjamin, Lyla, Jackson, and Crosby. Loving brother to Tony and Brother-in-law, Bill Halpenny. Also lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews and extended family. Predeceased by his siblings, Nilda, Eileen, Edith and David, as well as his brothers-in-law, Peter Grolman and Bob Adams, and his sister-in-law, Linda Salvatori.

Len enjoyed spending quality time with his family and many friends. Len will be deeply missed by his family, his friends, and the entire community of Haliburton. We are so very grateful for his extraordinary life.

Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life will be held on Tuesday, August 11th, 2026, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Len's memory can be made to the Fish Hatchery or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation – Highland Wood.

Community Funeral Home

HELP WANTED

We have built and owned a five-bedroom cottage in Haliburton on Redstone Lake for the past twenty five years. As an elderly couple in good health and energetic, we are looking for a husband and wife team to look after our cottage - the wife looking after the inside and the husband focusing on the outdoors. We would like our place to be visited once a week through out the year to accomplish tasks of cleaning, arranging, maintenance, and other requirements directed by us from time to time. We will gladly consider any reasonable expectations of compensation. Please call Suresh Bhalla at 416 904 6345

REPUTABLE BUILDING CONTRACTOR looking for a person with Carpentry Experience. Must have valid driver's license. Please call 705-754-4603.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED- Mark's Restaurant is hiring a part time server, must be 18 years of age or older, able to work evenings. 705-286-1818 and ask for Wilson or email marksrestaurant@icloud.com

WANTED

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION - will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

WANTED – Scrap metal, fridges, stoves, any metal. We will pick up. Please call 519-820-5701 this is a Gooderham phone number.

NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

HELP WANTED

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires
Two (2) Truck Driver/Equipment Operators

Truck Driver/Equipment Operators are responsible for the safe operation of heavy equipment such as a trucks, backhoes, loaders, and wing plows. This position is responsible for maintaining roads, ditching, excavating culverts, and brushing.

Successful applicants will possess an DZ/AZ licence and have experience operating heavy equipment. These positions require an ability to work on-call hours and respond to short notice call ins, as well as good judgment and communication skills. The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is $30.19. This position includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and employer paid extended health benefits.

Visit our Careers page at www.haliburtoncounty.ca for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **August 24, 2026, at 12:00pm**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.
In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires a
Grants & Procurements Coordinator
(15-month contract)

The County of Haliburton is currently accepting applications for a Grants & Procurements Coordinator. This new, vacant position is currently offered as a fixed term 15-month contract.

Reporting to the Deputy Treasurer, this position secures external funding opportunities and ensures compliant and transparent procurement processes. This dual-function role prioritizes responsibilities associated with identifying, securing, and administering grants The successful candidate will have post-secondary education and 4-5 years of experience in a relevant field.

This position includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and employer paid extended health benefits. The hourly wage range is $36.32 - $42.49.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **Friday August 21, 2026, at 12:00pm**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.
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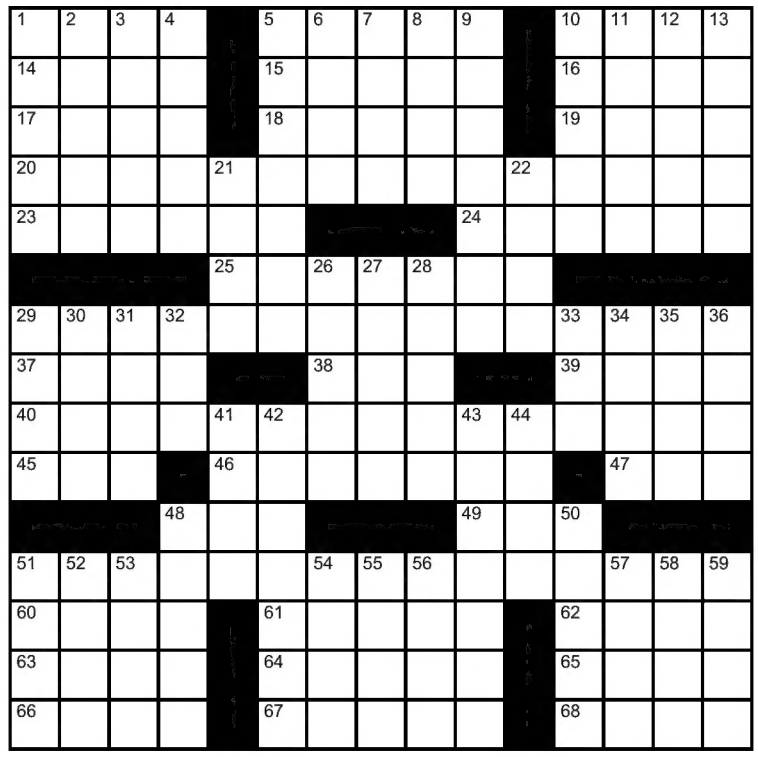
Highlander puzzles

C-grade Crossword

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords



Across

1 Picket line crosser, slangily
5 Touches up, as bangs
10 Ceramics project, perhaps
14 Scarlett's estate
15 Biblical Hebrew prophet
16 "La ___ Bonita" (Madonna hit)
17 "Abets" partner in crime?
18 Dot-com commerce
19 Ottawa-based spy agcy.
20 Political media event
23 ___ roll (A-students' roster)
24 Singer Diana and others
25 En ___ (by the way)
29 Like a very near success, casually
37 Sound on Old MacDonald's farm
38 Chung ___ chicken
39 One of an opiner's two
40 Guilt-free state of mind
45 Symbols some call snails
46 Bronx ball team
47 Word prompting an engagement?
48 Setting for many a joke
49 Tycoon's deg., often
51 Flaws in a witness testimony, say
60 Tart, unlike a tart
61 Give ___ (care)
62 "I Can't Take ___ More" (John Fogerty song)
63 Christmas angel's perch
64 On the up and up
65 Brooding and grim
66 Like all the Cs on the left side of the grid
67 Shell Canada rivals
68 Like all the Cs on the right side of the grid

Down

1 Kind of infection
2 Tahrir Square city
3 "Insensitive" singer Jann
4 Barbershop quartet low voice
5 Cancer zodiac symbol
6 Commercial lead-in for Rooter
7 "No man ___ island": Donne
8 "Catch ___ You Can" (DiCaprio/Hanks film)
9 City near Pompeii
10 Bad habits
11 CAA and NRA, e.g.
12 "It's been a ___!"
13 Takes the edge off
21 Apt. manager, for short
22 U.S. army training grp.
26 Have for dinner
27 Performed abysmally, in slang
28 Win by ___ (barely beat in a horse race)
29 "Cola" lead-in
30 Jaunty tune
31 Loonies
32 Jamaican dance music
33 Items in a bucket and tongs
34 Millennials' group
35 Deliver back?
36 GPS lines: Abbr.
41 Vancouver-born actor Reynolds
42 Coup for one who works a lot?
43 Firms up, as a friendship
44 Novel ID
48 Brought to tears?
50 Base counterparts
51 Narrow strip of land: Abbr.
52 "... ___ lender be"
53 He might feed you a line
54 Mid-month day in ancient Rome
55 Droops
56 The Beatles, less one
57 "Same here," more formally
58 Plenty, in texts
59 Do a pre-laundry chore

Can you eat with your dentures? ~ The answer should be yes, call us!

Steve Kerr
DENTURE CLINIC

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- Partial Dentures
- Same Day Repairs & Relines
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stevekerrdentureclinic.com

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and shorelines
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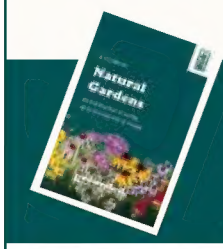

For a free guide to
natural gardens in
Haliburton County,
visit groundedgardens.ca.

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1			7			8		
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	2			7		6		
6				1		2	9	

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- Demolition • Site Clearing
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- Shoreline Restoration/Rock Retaining Walls
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Maxwell
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Boshkung LAKE

1427 Town Lot Rd.
Algonquin Highlands

- 255 ft Lakefront - 3 lake chain
- 1.66 Acres
- 4 Bed + Den + 3.5 Bath
- 4 Season Home/Cottage
- 24'x36' Triple Detached Garage

Offered at:
$839,000.00

1427TownLotRoad.com

Irondale RIVER

- 2000+ waterfront
- 9.1 acres of land
- Great swimming & paddling
- 32' x 24' Garage
- 3 Bed, 1 Bath

Offered at:
$575,000.00

1075HobbitsLane.com

Minden HOME

- 3 Bed+Den+Sitting Rm
- 3 Full Baths
- Beautifully Landscaped
- Private Backyard Oasis
- Minutes to Town
- Well Maintained Home

Offered at:
$599,000.00

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